THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 19, 2023 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 24 • LATE CITY EDITION

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GHANAIAN FOOTBALLER AMONG THOSE DEAD IN TURKEY QUAKE

Body of international player Christian Atsu was on Saturday found beneath the rubble of the flat where he stayed in Turkey's Hatay province

SCORED HIS LAST GOAL HOURS BEFORE QUAKE

Initial reports claimed he was rescued soon after the quake. A midfielder, Atsu had previously played for Chelsea and Newcastle. He had joined Turkish Super Lig team Hatayspor in January and had scored his last goal on February 5, hours before the quake struck. Meanwhile, the quake toll crossed 46,000 on Saturday with survivours still being found

THREE SURVIVE FOR 13 DAYS UNDER RUBBLE

- Adding to a series of miracle rescues, three people, including a child, were pulled out alive in Turkey, almost two weeks after the quake
- A Turkish boy's 'goodbye video' has gone viral on social media. Buried under the rubble, he began recording what he thought would be his last video. However, he and family were soon rescued by neighbours

84,000

BUILDINGS EITHER COLLAPSED OR WERE SEVERELY DAMAGED IN QUAKE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

CBI to question Dy CM Sisodia again today

AMIT MUKHERJEE @ New Delhi

THE CBI has summoned Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to appear before it on Sunday in connection with the ongoing probe into Delhi liquor scam.

"The CBI has called me again tomorrow (Sunday)," Sisodia tweeted. "They (Centre) have deployed the full forces of the CBI and ED against me, raided my house, searched my bank locker, yet they found nothing. I have always cooperated with the investigation and will continue to do so," the Aam Aadmi Party leader wrote.

He was questioned for almost nine hours on October 17 last year.

The latest summons comes on the heels of CBI's arrest of a Hyderabad-based chartered accountant Butchibabu Gorantla, over his alleged role in the formulation and implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22, which according to the CBI caused wrongful gain to Hyderabad-based wholesale and retail licensees and their beneficial owners resulting in huge losses to the Delhi exchequer.

According to CBI sources, Gorantla had professional ties to K Kavitha, daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. Kavitha was also questioned by the CBI in December last year for nearly seven hours in connection with the case.

DIVINE NIGHT

Devotees throng the 11th century Shiva Temple in Old Town, Bhubaneswar on Saturday for Mahashivaratri | DEBABRATA MALLICK

HC says bank officers must visit elderly pensioners, helps 102-yr-old

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court imposed a cost of ₹1 lakh on a public sector bank and the Union government for compelling a 102-year-old person to approach the court thrice for release of freedom fighters' pension and arrears. The court observed that bank officers need to visit elderly pensioners, at least in certain genuine cases when they do not submit life certificate within deadline.

Allowing a petition filed by H Nagabhushana Rao (102) from Malleswaram, the court ruled that the amount of ₹1 lakh should be jointly paid by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Canara Bank and Chief Manager of Syndicate Bank (now Canara Bank). Justice M Nagaprasanna directed the MHA to pay arrears of pension which is quantified at ₹3.71 lakh along with interest at 6% per annum from December 24, 2018 till date of payment to the petitioner.

Cost of ₹1L to be paid by MHA and bank

The court ruled that the amount of ₹1 lakh should be jointly paid by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Canara Bank and Chief Manager of Syndicate Bank (now Canara Bank)

The petitioner is a recipient of Swatantra Sainik Samman Gaurava Dhana (Pension) from the central government. His pension was abruptly stopped on November 1, 2017 after he could not submit the life certificate for 2017-18, which he later submitted on December 24, 2018. The government then issued a sanction letter belatedly releasing the pension for Dec 2018 to Oct 2020. However, arrears of ₹3.71 lakh were not paid. He moved the court for the third time as arrears were not released despite a court order on two occasions. P3

Expedite Oppn alliance: Nitish to Sonia, Rahul

Says BJP won't cross 100 LS seats if it's done

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

JD (U) boss and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday sought to prod Congress leaders Sonia and Rahul Gandhi to quickly take the initiative to stitch up a broad Opposition alliance for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, saying if they did, the BJP would not even be able to cross the 100-seat mark.

"I want you people (Congress) to make a quick decision. If they accept my suggestion and contest elections together, they (BJP) will be restricted to below 100 seats, but if they don't take my suggestion, you know what will happen," Nitish warned while addressing a CPI (ML) event here.

RJD leader and Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad echoed the CM. Both Nitish and Tejashwi appear to be in a hurry because they want clarity on their where they would fit into the Opposition unity matrix.

When Nitish snapped his pre-poll pact with the BJP a few months ago and formed a Grand Alliance with the RJD, he signaled his ambition to be projected as the Opposition's prime ministerial pick. But Rahul's successful Bharat Jodo Yatra changed both the optics and the dynamics.

As for deputy chief minister, he would want Nitish to move upstairs so as to enable him to keep his word that Tejashwi would lead the Grand Alliance in the Bihar Assembly elections in 2025 and become the next CM.

If they (Cong) accept my suggestion and contest elections together, the BJP will be restricted to under 100 seats. If they don't, you know what will happen

Nitish Kumar, CM

Both, of course, understand that a credible Opposition alliance would not be possible if the Congress is not on board. There are indications that the Grand Alliance could project Nitish's name as its PM candidate at its meeting on Purnea on February 25 if the Congress fails to expedite the process of cobbling together an Opposition alliance.

At the event, the Congress was represented by Salman Khurshid. "You have a good proposal. I expect a decision will be taken soon. I will inform my party's top leadership about it," he assured.

ELECTRIC FENCE

Saving jumbo: PM praises BTR foresters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

BANDIPUR Tiger Reserve (BTR) officials received a shot in the arm when their efforts in saving an elephant was praised by none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday. Modi lauded the foresters' timely intervention in saving a cow elephant which was seriously injured after it came in contact with an illegally erected electrified metal fence around an agricultural field at Gundlupet taluk in Chamarajanagar district on February 14.

The forest department brought it to the notice of Union Environment and Forest Minister Bhupendra Yadav, who tweeted, "So happy to note that an electrocuted elephant struggling for life was saved due to prompt action by the staff of Bandipur Tiger Reserve. The female elephant has been released back into the Reserve and is being closely monitored. Our forest frontline workers are our pride, (sic)" he said, sharing video clips and photos.

Reacting to Yadav's post, PM tweeted, "Compliments to the staff at Bandipur Tiger Reserve. Such compassion among our people is commendable."

BTR director P Ramesh Kumar told *The New Sunday Express*, "Getting appreciation from the Prime Minister is a great recognition for us. It is an inspiration for all of us to work even better in future." P4

'Fall at my feet': 22-yr-old throws acid on minor girl

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN yet another case of acid attack, a minor girl suffered 40 per cent burns after a jilted 'lover' threw thinner on her face after she turned down his proposal. The victim, a PU student, sustained injuries in the left eye, shoulder and back and is undergoing treatment at Minto Eye Hospital in the city. In a swift operation, the police arrested the accused, Sumanth alias Appu, a resident of Kurupete in Kanakapura.

The shocking incident took place at Kanakapura in Ramanagara district on the outskirts of Bengaluru. Sumanth (22) is a car mechanic.

The police said Sumanth had allegedly thrown stones at the victim's house on Friday morning. He had told her to fall at his feet if she wanted him to stay away. The victim, along with her brother, went to meet him near Narayanappa Kere along the bypass road in Kanakapura Town. When she was falling at his feet, the accused threw acid on her face. She was rushed to a nearby hospital by her brother with the help of locals. Both the families are said to have been aware of the accused's interest in marrying her but they did not proceed as they belonged to different castes. P3

12 more African cheetahs arrive in MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

TWELVE more cheetahs arrived in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) from South Africa on Saturday, more than five months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi released an initial batch of eight cheetahs from Namibia into the park.

The 12 arrived in Gwalior in a C-17 Globemaster military transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force early on Saturday. They were later flown to the KNP in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district in the force's helicopters. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released the 12, seven males and five females, into 10 quarantine enclosures. Four of them will be quarantined in pairs in two enclosures. All of them will soon be moved to a bigger enclosure within the park, and later, into the wild.

(Above) Shivraj Chouhan releases cheetahs into enclosure; and (left) one of the released cheetahs | PTI

They will be fed buffalo meat in their enclosures for one month. Once they are moved to the larger enclosure, they can hunt on their own. With the arrival of the South African batch, the park now has 20 big cats – 10 males and 10 females.

"This is a grand gift to Madhya Pradesh on Mahashivratri. The eight Namibian Cheetahs which were flown here five months back have adapted well to the conditions here," Chouhan said.

The cheetahs were donated by South Africa, with India paying $3,000 for capturing each.

The cheetahs brought earlier from Namibia are now in the bigger enclosure and a task force for monitoring Project Cheetah will soon decide when to release them into the wild.

EXPRESS READ

India's import of Russian oil at record levels in Jan

New Delhi: India imported a record 1.4 million barrels per day of Russian oil in January, up 9.2% from December figures, Reuters reported. Share of Russian crude in India's oil import surged to 28 % last month and Russia was India's top supplier, the wire service reported. With the Western countries imposing sanctions on Russian crude oil in the wake of Ukraine war, India started purchasing it at heavily discounted rates.

EXPRESS Dialogues

'SCIENCE, NOT EMOTIONS, IS NEEDED IN MANAGING WILDLIFE'

With cases of man-animal conflict rising, noted tiger biologist Dr K Ullas Karanth says it's time to reset our conservation priorities | P4

Kodagu forests filling up with waste from Kerala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Madikeri

THE forest and wildlife in Kodagu are facing serious threat due to illegal dumping of truckloads of waste arriving from Kerala. The forest fringes on NH-275 are also under threat from littering caused due to lack of public awareness and proper facilities for tourists.

The Makutta Reserve Forest and the Bramhagiri Wildlife Forest, which line the Karnataka-Kerala border, are gradually turning into an open dumping yard for waste.

It was only after some alert residents from the district, including members of the Kodagu Seva Kendra, flagged the issue that the authorities started collecting waste from the forest fringes and burning it. The forest department has also increased checks at the Makutta check-post. Recently, a truck driver and a cleaner, who were allegedly transporting 15 sacks of plastic waste from Kerala, to dump in the Makutta forest area were nabbed by the foresters and booked under the Wildlife Protection Act. Two more cases have been booked against violators who were trying to shift garbage from Kerala.

Foresters during a cleanliness drive in Kodagu | EXPRESS

"Foresters will conduct daily patrolling across the reserve forest area to prevent travellers from littering," said Dechamma, Range Forest Officer (RFO) of Makutta forest. P5

NEXT YOUTUBE CEO

Neal is a bright but private person, recall school batchmates

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

WHEN YouTube Chief Executive Officer Susan Wojcicki announced that Indian-American Neal Mohan will be her successor, there were quite a few happy faces in this city of Nawabs, as he did his schooling here.

An alumnus of St Francis College in the posh Hazaraganj area, Neal studied there from 1986 to 1991 — from Class VI to Class XII. From there he went to US, where he graduated in electrical engineering from Stanford University.

His teacher and batchmates recall he was good in studies. Lucknow University professor Nishi Pandey, who was his class teacher in Class IX at St Francis College, says, "Neal was the topper of his batch and was good in academics."

She remembers him to be a very quiet and sincere student. "He was good in studies and was usually the topper in the school exam. He is not in touch with many of us as he was more of a private person," she adds.

St Francis' College principal Fr Rajesh D' Souza shared his pride after learning about Neal. "It is a proud moment for all Francisians," he says.

Dr Rishi Sethi, one of his batchmates, who is now a leading cardiologist of the city, says Neal is his good friend and a perfect gentleman. "We were together for a good six-seven years at St Francis' College. He was a close friend and used to stay at River Bank Colony. I used to frequent his place. My last meeting with him was some 10 years ago when I went to the US. More of a private person, Neal prefers to stay away from socialising," shares Dr Sethi.

Another batchmate Sajid Mansoor, now vice president at HSBC Global Finance Operations, says, "We were in school together. We all knew Neal would do something great. He moved out of Lucknow and we lost touch ever since. We are very proud of his achievement."

After Neal was appointed chief product officer at YouTube in 2015, he played a major part in launching YouTube TV, YouTube Music, YouTube Premium, and Shorts. He also led YouTube's Trust and Safety team.

Thank you, @SusanWojcicki. It's been amazing to work with you over the years... Looking forward to what lies ahead

Neal Mohan